

NEWS RELEASE

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FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS WOMAN CHARGED IN HURRICANE KATRINA SCAM

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on July 25, 2008, **DEANGELA LYNNE DIXON**, age 49, of Fairview Heights, Illinois was charged by a federal grand jury in East St. Louis, Illinois, with committing a Hurricane Katrina related mail fraud. The indictment alleges that beginning in September, 2005, **DIXON** devised a scheme to defraud the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and obtained expedited disaster assistance by falsely claiming that she was displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The indictment alleges that, "At the time New Orleans was devastated, **DEANGELA LYNNE DIXON** was residing well outside of Hurricane Katrina's path in Gary, Indiana."

The penalties for mail fraud are a term of imprisonment of up to twenty years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both, and a term of supervised release of up to three years.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois is a member of the Department of Justice's Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, created in September 2005 by the Attorney General to deter, detect, and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes. Headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Matthew Friedrich of the Criminal Division, the Task Force is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement investigating agencies and the United States Attorney's Offices in the Gulf Coast region and nationwide. To date, the Hurricane Katrina Task Force has indicted 892 individuals in 43 judicial districts.

Information for the **DIXON** indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case is assigned for prosecution to Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.